

- Among whites, the gender gap in life expectancy at birth declined almost one year between 1990 and 1996. This paralleled the national trend. In 1990, white females had a life expectancy of 79.1 years. By 1996, it was marginally higher at 79.2 years. This was about three-tenths of a year less than their life expectancy in 1992, 79.5 years. Although the losses were smaller, life expectancy for white females at ages 25 and 65, respectively, also declined between 1992 and 1996. Life expectancy at birth for the national white female population was 79.7 years.
- Black males in Tennessee manifested a steady decline in life expectancy at birth, from 64.9 years in 1991 to 63.3 years in 1995. This downward trend reversed in 1996, with life expectancy reaching 64.1 years. Life expectancy at birth for the US black male population was 66.1 years.
- Black males aged 25 in 1991 could expect an additional 43.1 years of life. By 1995, this expected remaining lifetime had declined to 41.5 years, and then rose to 41.8 in 1996. Remaining expected years of life for black males aged 65 was 13.2 years in 1996. This compares with 12.9 in 1990 and 13.3 in 1991.
- Life expectancy at birth for black females was 73.7 in 1996. It was 73.1 in 1990. The peak achieved during the period 1990-1996 was 73.8 in 1992. Nationally, life expectancy for black female newborns in 1996 was 74.2 years. Remaining expected life for black females in Tennessee aged 25 and 65 in 1996 was 50.4 and 17 years, respectively. Corresponding peaks of remaining lifetime for these two groups for the period 1990-1996 were 50.8 and 17.3 in 1992.
- In contrast to whites, the gender gap in life expectancy at birth for blacks in Tennessee expanded -- from 8.7 years in 1990 to 9.5 years in 1996. Nationally, the advantage for black females declined by a year between 1990 and 1996, from 9.1 years to 8.1 years.
- Survival curves show duration of life that newborn white and black males and females could be expected to attain with the persistence of the mortality conditions prevailing in Tennessee. The inferior life chances for black males born in 1996 are very apparent. At age 65, only 55% of black males would still be alive compared with 86% of white females and 75% of both black females and white males.
- At age 85, the survival curves indicate that 41% of white female newborns in 1996 would still be alive. This compares with 30% of black females, 21% of white males and only 12% of black males.